

Friday 25 March 2022

## Update Letter



Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope my letter finds you all safe and well.

Unfortunately, our Covid 19 cases are continuing to rise, with a total of 21 cases over the last five weeks. We had to make the difficult decision to close both Sycamore and Maple class this week, I would like to thank the parent & carers of the pupils in both classes for being so understanding and supportive.

This week marked two years since the beginning of the lockdown and a time when our lives would be changed unimaginably. As I reflect on the last two years I do so with mixed feelings, the pandemic and lockdowns have caused us all a great deal of upset and suffering and many of us have lost people close to us, but I also reflect on how well we worked together as a whole school community showing such strength and determination and triumphing in the face of great adversity, and continuing to do our very best for the children, and for that I will be forever grateful to you and the staff & governors for all that you have done.

### Covid Measures Wk. Beginning Monday 28 March 2022

- All staff engage in twice weekly testing each Sunday and Wednesday.
- Any staff member who develops symptoms will immediately self-isolate and seek a PCR.
- All secondary age pupils to continue with twice weekly testing.
- All pupils who are identified as a close contact of a confirmed case need to engage in daily testing for 7 days, any pupils who develop symptoms must immediately self-isolate and seek a PCR.
- All visitors to the school will be required to show evidence of a negative LFD test prior to arrival onsite.
- Assemblies will remain virtual.

\*We have removed the recommendation for wearing face coverings, this is now optional\*

### Easter Bingo

It was great to see so many of you yesterday and enjoy a fun evening together raising funds for the school. We raised a fantastic £257. Thank you again for your kind and generous donations and for supporting the event. I enjoyed my role as bingo caller, but I don't think I'll be giving up my day job just yet.



**Headteacher:** Mr Kieran Welsh Harrington Road, Chorley, PR7 1JZ. **Tel:** 01257 262227

**Email:** head@astleypark.lancs.sch.uk **Website:** www.astleypark.lancs.sch.uk



### **Star of the Week Reward Lunch**

I have recently introduced a reward lunch, where all the Star of the Week winners from each class - Rowan to Y11 join me in the hall on a Monday to receive some VIP treatment. I set up a special table with pupils enjoying five-star waiter service, complete with a choice of hot drinks including my extra special hot chocolate with marshmallows and chocolate sprinkles and after dinner mints. The pupils really enjoy a special treat, and it is a great chance for me to spend some time with them.

### **Equality Mark re-accreditation**

This week we had our re-accreditation visit for our Equality Mark Status. Roxana Sardais & Afrasiab Anwar visited school and spent time with me, Mrs Crouch and Mr Maher Equality Governor, they also spoke with the school council. Our external assessors were so impressed with all the wonderful work we do and that despite the pandemic we had further developed and enhanced our equality provision across school. They have asked if we would support the other Lancashire special schools to achieve the status too. I am pleased to say we were successful and have received the prestigious award again for a further three years. Thanks to our hardworking and dedicated Equality Team.

### **Trauma Informed School Status**

We have also recently received our "Trauma Informed School" Status. The whole staff team and Governors completed three x 2-hour online training sessions with Graham Chatterley from AC Education. The training covered understanding trauma and the impact it has on young people, supporting pupils with unmet attachment needs and Emotion Coaching. Class based staff have also recently completed a further three-hour online training module on Emotion Coaching to enhance and embed their learning in this area. Given the negative impact the pandemic has had on many of our pupils, this training has been vital and enabled us to offer the highest quality support.

### **Staff Update**

We are saying Goodbye & Good Luck to Miss Brophy, who is moving on to Belmont Secondary School. Miss Brophy has been class teacher at our school for three years and I am sure you will join me in thanking her for her service to the school and wish her well for the future.

Congratulations to Miss Fraser Teaching Assistant in Chestnut Class, who has recently given birth to a beautiful baby boy, Dax. Miss Fraser is enjoying her maternity leave and will be returning to school next year.

We recently welcomed back Miss Holden Teaching Assistant in Beech, who has returned from her maternity leave.





### **Football Five-a-side Event**

On Wednesday pupils from 7A, 7P, 8A, 9G, 11R & 11G took part in a Lancashire Special Schools football league at Poolfoot Farm Sports Complex. The pupils represented the school exceptionally well, demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship and coped with the warm weather. Thank you to Mr Murphy for leading the visit and the staff that went along to support Mr Crew, Mr Connor and Mrs England.

### **Summer Fair**


Our Summer Fair will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 10am – 2.00pm, it will be fantastic to welcome you all back into school. Please put the date in your diary and join us for a fab day of fun and games, more information will be issued over the next few weeks.

### **World Autism Day**

World Autism Day takes place on Saturday 02 April, as we will be on holiday then, we are marking the day on Friday 01 April.

Hoping you all enjoy a lovely weekend in the sunshine.

Take care & keep safe 



Kieran Welsh  
Headteacher

